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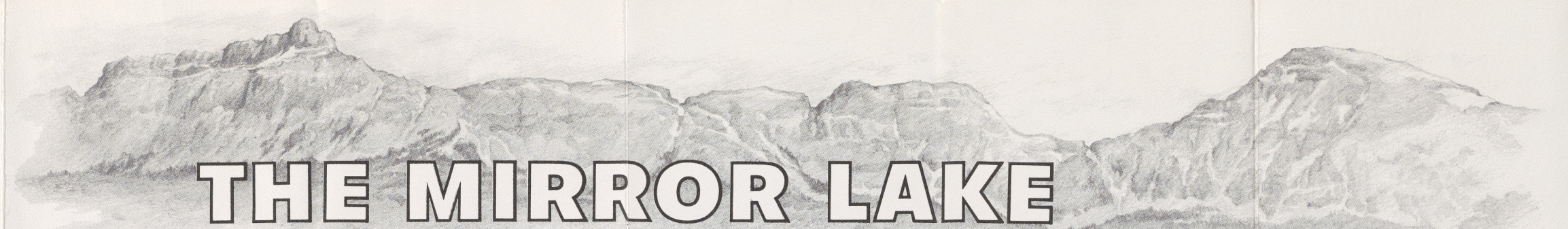
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The Mirror Lake Multiple Use Highway



Much has been written and said in recent years of "multiple-use" on the National Forests — a management system calling for the harmonious, integrated development and use of basic renewable resources, without impairing the productivity of the soil. Under the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Law enacted in 1960, five major renewable resources are administered on an interrelated basis: water, timber, forage, wildlife habitat, and recreation. The underlying philosophy is to get the best possible production from each land area, thereby benefitting the greatest number of people. How the Forest Service does this on a sustained yield basis so that the supply may be replenished year after year for generations unborn is one of the most fascinating studies within the wide field of conservation.

Because mere written explanations are never fully adequate, the Forest Service has prepared this folder as a self-guided tour (see opposite side) to not only acquaint you with recreational opportunities along the highway, but other uses as well. The Kamas Ranger District is one of only four districts in the entire nation selected by the Forest Service as a multiple-use demonstration and pilot study site. Principles learned and developed here will better National Forest management throughout America.



Multiple Use Highway

Water From On High

In addition to their scenic value, the mountains surrounding this highway are vital economically. During winters as air masses are lifted in passage over these remote heights, life-giving moisture falls as snow. As the winter proceeds, snows steadily mount on the tops of these watersheds, sometimes to depths of 12 feet, with drifts up to 50 feet deep.

With the return of spring, the white mantle gradually melts, trickling over rocks, seeping into the earth, percolating downward to feed four major rivers — the Weber, Provo, and the Bear, which flow into the Great Basin; and the Duchesne, which feeds the Colorado. These rivers provide irrigation water for much of northern Utah's valley land and for part of southern Idaho. Many towns and cities also depend upon these rivers for culinary water.

In all its resource management efforts, the Forest Service devotes serious attention to watershed protection and improvement. Where necessary, certain areas have been rehabilitated by contour trenching, reseeding, and other methods to improve plant cover, prevent erosion, and reduce danger of flash floods resulting from surface runoff during summer storms.

How Much Wood?

"How much wood could a woodchuck chuck, if a woodchuck could chuck wood?" goes the old riddle and tongue twister. "He'd chuck all the wood that a woodchuck could if a woodchuck could chuck wood." Not very clear-cut, of course, but a reminder that the Forest Service has very specific answers as to how much timber may be harvested from a given area, harvested on a "sustained yield" basis, assuring a constant supply for the future.

By scientific techniques the Forest Service has ascertained that timber cutting during most of the 60's will run about five million board feet annually — enough wood to build 500 homes a year.

Unfortunately, timbering has not always been so well regulated. Early loggers took large quantities of timber along the highway's upper reaches for charcoal and railroad ties. Substantial acreages are treeless today because those original harvests contained no provision for new crops.

Such problems made the need for Government management and protection of these lands abundantly apparent. A fine example of progressive management is found in the Spring Canyon multiple-use area where selective cutting for mine props and smelter wood has provided room for

a healthy new understory. Parts of the area badly infested with mistletoe have been clearcut to prevent infection of the new crop and the surrounding forest. Simultaneously, timber is provided to meet the growing demand for wood products.

Home On The Range

As with timber so with forage. The Forest Service, throughout its half century of development has devised effective methods for determining how many cattle or sheep may graze a given area without depleting the basic vegetation and soil resources, impairing watersheds or other resource values.

Problems stemming from overgrazing in the past are being resolved through increased cooperation and understanding between the Forest Service and livestock owners in this area. As of 1962 there were four cattle and five sheep allotments on the Kamas Ranger District, grazed by about 1,500 cattle and some 4,600 sheep.

Dwellers Of The Forest

The diary of a rugged Mormon pioneer describes hunting in the High Uintas Primitive Area — of taking elk that roamed the mountain tops like goats. The author recounts pursuing his quarry to such lofty climes that he could survey "all the kingdoms of the world" then modifies the statement slightly with the phrase, "that were in my sight at any rate."

The grandeur of the area remains, unaltered, and those adventuresome souls willing to struggle up the mountains in quest of game can still capture that top-of-the-world feeling, if not the elk or wily buck. The balance of nature is good, however, and hunters can count on a 50-50 chance of bagging their game from a thriving mule deer population in the highway vicinity.

Elk, moose, black bear, and cougar roam the meadows and more remote areas along with a cosmopolitan population of smaller animals — the coyote, fox, bobcat, badger, marten, mink, weasel, skunk, rockchuck, pine squirrel, beaver, muskrat, pika, snow shoe and cottontail rabbit. Waterfowl, ruffed and blue grouse and a variety of lesser birds are common.

In 1961, there were 15,000 visits by big game hunters to the Kamas Ranger District, along with more than 138,000 visits by fishermen.

Speaking of fishing . . . the fish planting program of today has evolved a long way from the times when forest rangers and sheepherders stocked the higher lakes by hand, carrying a few fingerlings in a bucket. Rivers, lakes and streams near the

Mirror Lake Highway spell good fishing in any man's language.

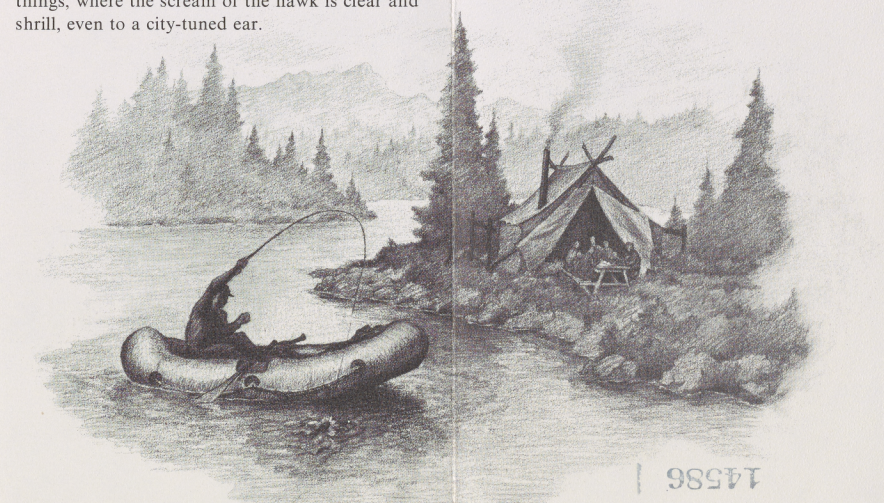
During 1962, about 120,000 legal-sized rainbow were planted along the road before the season and from 300,000 to 400,000 eastern brook and native fingerlings were planted in the back country by plane as the ice melted from the lakes. Aerial plantings terminate by July, while those along the highway are conducted about every two weeks throughout the summer. Most of the fish for the area are raised by the Utah State Department of Fish and Game near the beginning of the highway — STOP NUMBER ONE on your self-guided tour.

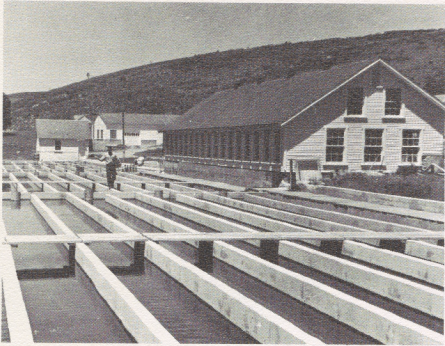
Road To Recreation

Few places have more to offer the outdoor recreationist than Mirror Lake Highway and vicinity. Hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and wilderness pack trips, camping and picnicking, boating, nature study, photography, "mountain gazing" ad infinitum. Such allurements have drawn people in ever-widening numbers, from about 45,000 visits in 1941 to some 465,000 in 1961, an increase of 1,000 percent.

To accommodate this growing through the Forest Service has constructed 11 camp and picnic sites along the highway and throughout the Kamas and Evanston Ranger District, capable of accommodating about 1430 people at once. All such spots are easily accessible, yet, they are set back enough and so spaced and constructed as to preserve a tranquil, primitive atmosphere.

Numerous hiking and horseback trails help knit the less accessible "back country" into the total recreation fabric. These picturesque forest byways entice more and more people to "leave it all behind" and head for the big country where silence is broken only by the wind and the wild things, where the scream of the hawk is clear and shrill, even to a city-tuned ear.





1. KAMAS FISH HATCHERY — 3.3 miles from Kamas*

Although travellers in the High Uintas may never receive "manna from heaven" to replenish their grub supply, they can look forward confidently to plenty of fish from the sky. Each summer from 300,000 to 400,000 native and eastern brook trout fingerlings are planted in the High Uinta Lakes by airplane, an important phase of the Utah State Department of Fish and Game program to meet the growing demands of western anglers.

During its 30 years of history, the Kamas Fish Hatchery has produced millions of trout to supplement natural reproduction. In addition to those sprinkled from the blue, nearly 120,000 legal-sized rainbow are planted near the highway to assure action for anglers who don't have time or inclination to hike or pack back in.

Visitors are invited to stop at the hatchery to view an important phase of the State's fish management program. When fish are planted in streams and lakes with suitable water, food, and cover, their chances for survival and growth are good.



2. BEAVER CREEK NATURAL ARBORETUM — 6.1 to 14.7 miles*

Another phenomenon of this area, along with fish from the sky, is the Kamas Ranger District's natural arboretum or tree garden. Located in the canyon along the highway, it extends from the forest boundary to the Soapstone area and affords much of interest to the botanist. Growing within its confines are many of the native trees and shrubs found in Utah.



3. SOAPSTONE MULTIPLE USE AREA — 14.7 miles*

This stop provides an inquisitive visitor opportunity to test his powers of discernment. What important uses lie within view? Near by is water from the Provo River which supplies power, irrigation, and culinary demands for much of Utah, and yields fine trout as well.

What about outdoor recreation? Two new campsites in the area provide facilities for 425 people, and the YMCA organization camp offers wholesome fun and conservation experience for numerous boys and girls each summer. Look a little more carefully and you can detect some of the dwellings owned by members of the Soapstone Summer Home Association, authorized under national forest special use permit. Notice how these homes are designed to complement and blend with their forest surroundings.

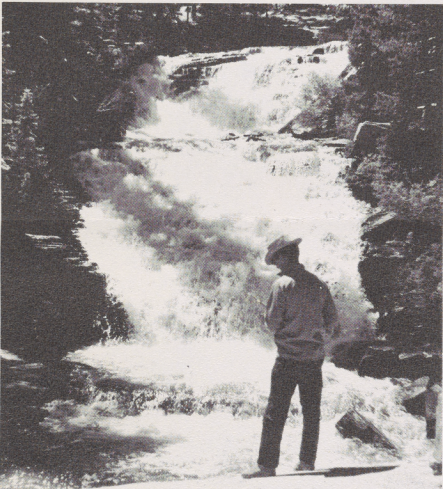
Some of the uses may not be so easy to discern, but there is forage in the offing. Sheep and cattle can often be spotted grazing the canyon bottom. Hunters find deer abundant in this locale each fall, and several million board feet of timber is harvested annually from the Soapstone and Iron Mine sales close by.



4. DUCHESNE TUNNEL — 17.9 miles*

On a bright day, when the water's not pouring through, you can see light at the end of this six-mile excavation, constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation to divert water from the Duchesne to the Provo River. The work, commencing in 1940, was completed 12 years later. This hole in the earth slopes less than one half percent and can funnel 600 second feet of water to ever-thirsty communities downstream.

Nearby, a camp for boys from the Utah State Industrial School is maintained by the School and Forest Service.



5. UPPER PROVO RIVER FALLS — 24.0 miles*

Set like a jewel in a multiple-use ring, Provo River Falls ranks among the highway's outstanding scenic attractions. This surging sweep of white water is a delight to the artist, photographer, angler, and to nature lovers in general. It lies but a few paces from the special parking overlook just off the road.

*Mileage numbers indicate distance of each stop from Kamas.



Self Guided Tour OF THE MIRROR LAKE MULTIPLE USE HIGHWAY

KAMAS RANGER DISTRICT WASATCH NATIONAL FOREST

LEGEND

- Camp Sites
- Featured Areas
- Primitive Area Boundary

5 4 3 2 1 0 5
Scale in Miles



6. PROVO RIVER DRAINAGE SCENIC OVERLOOK — 29.2 miles*

From this lofty eminence on Bald Mountain Pass, the scenic grandeur unfolds, wild heart-stirring beauty in every direction of the compass. As might be supposed, considering the theme of this tour, there is multiple use. Not that the uses always stand out; they are often subtly woven into the overall forest tapestry, and this very subtlety is evidence of harmonious coordination.

By now, however, you are probably looking at nature with greater perception. Lakes and streams, timber sales, livestock grazing, recreation, wildlife ... all are present, as the feature sign indicates.



8. MIRROR LAKE RECREATION AREA — 31.5 miles*

There is something special about a lake. The word itself connotes tranquility, rest for body and soul. At the same time it suggests adventure, exhilarating action, fun and happiness. Mirror Lake is a good example.

Gateway to the High Uintas Primitive Area, Mirror Lake is noted for its quiet beauty and its diversified recreational offerings. Located unobtrusively along its banks are about 80 camping and picnicking units capable of accommodating 400 visitors. Trout abound in its waters; there is boating, swimming, and not far off, riding, hiking, and wilderness pack trips.

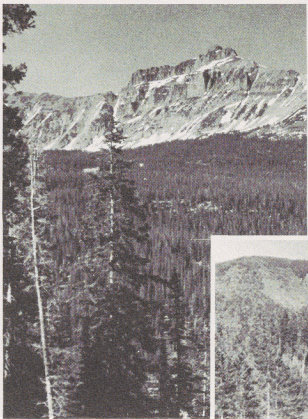


7. HIGH UINTAS SCENIC OVERLOOK — 29.6 miles*

"Panoramic" is the proper adjective here. From this vantage point 10,678 feet above sea level, you can see much of the stage, the High Uinta Primitive Area, and some of the major players. The performance has been a long one and the end is not in sight.

The 240,717-acre Primitive Area was established by the Chief of the Forest Service in 1931 to preserve its wilderness features. Unfettered by the "niceties of civilization," this rugged realm stretches from the Duchesne River below, 28 miles eastward to Kings Peak, Utah's highest mountain at 13,498 feet.

The Primitive Area with its myriad peaks and lakes is a vital watershed and will be maintained as nearly as possible in its natural state. Threading the area are trails for the rider, hunter, fisherman, and hiker — all who would be at one with nature.



9. HAYDEN PASS SCENIC OVERLOOK — 34.5 miles*

Hayden Peak looms boldly ahead, highest mountain in the Kamas Ranger District, challenging the sky at 12,485 feet. The pass itself divides the Colorado River and the Great Salt Lake drainage systems.

All around lies the land where streams are born, streams which converge to form four rivers; the Bear, Duchesne, Weber, and Provo, each arising within only two miles distance. Their combined flow from this national forest land exceeds 500,000 acre feet a year — nearly 163 billion gallons of life giving water for Utah's population centers.



10. BEAR RIVER HISTORICAL POINT — 43.1 miles*

Here, the atmosphere is fairly saturated with history. There are ghosts in the forest, remnants among the trees of mountain communities, towns such as Mill City with populations of 500 or more which mushroomed long ago to man flourishing timber operations. A brief forest excursion will reveal them — dwellings resolving back to earth, sun-purpled whiskey bottles (collectors items nowadays) decrepit flumes and charcoal kilns.

Dense timber stands throughout these hills furnished wood for charcoal enterprises before the turn of the century. Logs were conveyed to Hilliard, Wyoming along a 28-mile flume at 15 miles an hour, four times the speed of team and wagon. Without benefit of phone or radio, ingenious lumber men built towers at each end of the flume and controlled the flow of cord wood by a lantern signal system.

Timber in this vicinity provided thousands of railroad ties and lumber for different communities. A doughty breed were the lumberjacks, men who lit forest fires and refused to fight them without a pay raise, fun loving characters who could stir up a bedlam of song and dance with some snooze and couple of fiddles, men quick to riot, eager for a good slugfest. But they were pioneers who played a significant role in mankind's migration westward.

Livestock also figured importantly in those days, as did elk, deer, and other game, all providing meat for the table.

Time moves on leaving its wake. Today, from where you stand, there is history in the making. Multiple use has come of age and is leaving an indelible imprint.